

24 January 1950

Mr. William Frye  
Director, Office of Public Information  
National Military Establishment  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Frye:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 23 January regarding the observance of Armed Forces Day on 20 May.

I should like to ask you to remove my name from the list of suggested speakers for several reasons. First, that by formal directive from the National Security Council, this Agency, including the Director, has been ordered to shun publicity as much as possible and certainly, of course, it would be impossible to go before an audience without mentioning one's present duty. Second, this duty, as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, is somewhat removed from actual participation with any of the Armed Services, being more a civilian-type agency than belonging to the National Military Establishment.

I thank you very much for your help in this matter and beg to be,

Sincerely yours,

*S - via ER 1/25/50*

R. H. Hillenkoetter  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Director of Central Intelligence

D:RHH:lec

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NATIONAL MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

The Office of Public Information, in cooperation with public information agencies of the service Departments, is developing plans for the observance of the first Armed Forces Day, 20 May 1950. Of particular importance to the success of the occasion will be the implementation of a sound procedure whereby this office may assign senior military and naval officers to fulfill the numerous speaker invitations.

While it is intended to solicit the services of senior officers in the field and prominent civilian spokesmen outside the military establishment, it will still be necessary to have the services of a large number of speakers from the Washington area to participate in the more prominent Armed Forces Day programs. Because of local conditions, some communities may elect to observe Armed Forces Day on a date other than 20 May. Accordingly, it is requested that you hold the dates of 14-21 May open on your calendar for a possible speaking engagement as suggested by the Secretary of Defense in his memorandum for the Secretaries of the services, dated 17 October 1949.

Although I do not have a specific engagement in mind at this moment, the Office of Public Information will attempt to suit the locale to your preference when invitations begin to arrive. If in the meanwhile, you receive a direct personal invitation it is further requested you coordinate the request with this office. Your suggestions of preferred geographical areas in which to speak and cooperation with the over-all program will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM FRYE  
Director

Rear Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, USN  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D. C.